Exploitation of tourism potential

1717. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the tourism potential yet to be exploited in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to identify and develop the potential tourist spots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Government has prepared 20 Year Perspective Plans for the States/UT Governments with the broad objectives of:

(i) assessing the existing tourism scenario in the States;

(ii) reviewing the status of existing development/investment plans;

(iii) evaluating the existing potential tourist destinations;

(iv) developing sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;

(v) giving plans with short term and long term targets;

(vi) indicating the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and

(vii) preparing an action plan for implementation of identified potential schemes/projects, and for development of infrastructure.

(c) Identification and development of potential tourist spots is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. However, the 20 Year Perspective Plans prepared for the States have given State-wise details and the action plan for its implementation for identified potential development schemes/projects etc.

Baghlihar Hydel Project

1718. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank appointed expert on Baghlihar Hydel Project arbitration matter, has since visited the dam site for an on-the-spot assessment;

(b) whether India has been able to marshal all facts and data before the arbitrator;

(c) whether because of reduction in flow on Chenab during winter months, power generation at Baghlihar Hydel Project could be far below its projected capacity; and

(d) whether the existing Hydel Projects at Salal on Chenab and Uri on Jhelum generate much less power in winter when the need for power is maximum in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The World Bank appointed expert is due to visit the dam site in October, 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) it is a usual phenomenon that the river discharges significantly reduce during the winter months when compared with the monsoon flows. Accordingly, the power generation during winter months at Baghlihar (under construction). Salal and Uri Projects are expected to be considerably less as compared to the installed capacities of these Plants. However, as reported by NHPC, the power generation from Uri and Salal Power Stations during winter months (October to March) is more than the Design Energy for winter months.

Integrated Schemes for Water

1719. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he fully appreciates that water resources are scarce in India and better management is needed without any further loss of time; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to devise integrated schemes for water utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Water Policy, 2002 states that water is a scarce and precious national resource. It further states that planning, development and management of water resources need to be governed by National Perspectives and on an integrated and environmentally sound basis, keeping in view the socio-economic aspects and needs of the States.